

**In the Claims:**

Please delete Claims ~~2-15~~, ~~18-38~~, ~~41~~, and ~~45-50~~.

Please amend Claims 1, 16, 17, and 39. A marked up copy of the amended claim illustrating the amendments appears in Appendix A, with brackets for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. A clean copy of the amended claim appears below.

A1 B1  
1. (AMENDED) A clutch release bearing assembly adapted to engage a spring plate of a clutch assembly of a motor vehicle manual transmission to either push or pull the spring plate to release the clutch of the manual transmission, said clutch release assembly comprising:

a bearing carrier defining a central axis;

a bearing assembly supported on said bearing carrier, said bearing assembly including a stationary race, a rotatable race and a plurality of anti-friction elements disposed between said stationary race and said rotatable race adapted to support said rotatable race and to allow rotational movement of said rotatable race with respect to said stationary race; and

an aligning ring including a radial outer diameter and a front face mounted to said rotatable race, said aligning ring adapted for engagement with the spring plate of the clutch assembly;

said front face of said aligning ring defining a plane that is normal to the axis of said bearing carrier, said aligning ring having a spherical face and said rotatable race having a spherical face, said spherical face of said rotatable race engaging said spherical face of said aligning ring to allow limited angular displacement of said front face away from normal relative to said central axis of said bearing carrier;

A<sub>1</sub>  
amended

said rotatable race including an oil groove extending radially about said rotatable race to retain a lubricant that reduces friction between said rotatable race and said aligning ring.

A<sub>2</sub> ~~Amended~~

16. (AMENDED) The clutch release bearing assembly of claim 1 wherein said rotatable race includes a groove extending radially about said rotatable race adapted to receive an o-ring.

17. (AMENDED) The clutch release bearing assembly of claim 1 including a plurality of anti-friction elements disposed between said rotatable race and said aligning ring.

A<sub>3</sub>

39. (AMENDED) A clutch release bearing assembly adapted to engage a spring plate of a clutch assembly of a motor vehicle manual transmission to either push or pull the spring plate to release the clutch of the manual transmission, said clutch release assembly comprising:

a bearing carrier with a central axis;

a bearing assembly supported on said bearing carrier, said bearing assembly including a stationary race, a rotatable race and a plurality of anti-friction elements disposed between said stationary race and said rotatable race to support said rotatable race and to allow rotational movement of said rotatable race with respect to said stationary race;

an aligning ring including a radial outer diameter and a front face mounted to said rotatable race, said aligning ring adapted for engagement with a spring plate of a clutch assembly;